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**Department of Commerce and Insurance
Commissioner Leslie Shechter Newman**

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES RECALL OF CHINESE TIRES, URGES
CONSUMERS AND RETAILERS TO ACT SWIFTLY**

Tennessee Attorney General Bob Cooper and Mary Clement, director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, today announced Foreign Tire Sales (FTS), Inc. has issued a formal nationwide recall of 255,000 light truck radial tires manufactured in China between 2004 and 2006.

The tires subject to recall include the brands Westlake, Compass and YKS. They were manufactured by Hangzhou Zhongce Rubber Co., Ltd. of Hangzhou, China and imported by FTS of Union, N.J. The tires lack an adequate "gum strip" -- a rubber strip between the steel belts -- making them susceptible to premature tread separation, which can cause serious accidents, according to FTS. All the tires were sold as replacement tires and did not come on new vehicles.

"These tires could blow out, causing a deadly accident," Attorney General Cooper said. "It's important to check your tires immediately if you suspect you may have some of the tires being recalled."

If consumers suspect they have some of the [tires in question](#), they should return them as soon as possible to a dealer for free replacements. To return the tires, consumers must fill out a [claim form](#) and bring it with them to a dealer. After confirming the tires are subject to recall, the dealer

will provide free replacements. FTS will reimburse retailers for replacement tires and related costs.

Tennessee issued a consumer alert on Aug. 2 because of safety concerns with potentially defective FTS tires shortly after a multistate working group of Attorneys General was created to investigate the concerns. Tennessee is serving on the executives committee of the working group for the investigation, which continues to monitor the entire process.

Consumers may call a toll free number, 1-888-899-9293, or visit the company website at www.foreigntire.com to get more information on the recall. Consumers who live in Tennessee or who purchased the specified tires in Tennessee and have complaints about the recalled tires or any other consumer matter should contact the Division of Consumer Affairs at 1-800-342-8385 (toll-free inside Tennessee), (615) 741-4737, or online at www.state.tn.us/consumer. If you have had an accident as a result of a defective tire, you should immediately contact the [Division of Consumer Affairs](#) using the same contact information and file a report with the [NHTSA](#) by calling their Vehicle Safety Hotline Toll-Free at 1-888-327-4236; TTY 1-800-424-9153. You may also want to talk with a private attorney, because you have a limited amount of time in which to file a lawsuit.

Consumers should check their tire sidewalls for the following information to determine whether their tires are being recalled:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Models</u>	<u>Partial D.O.T Number</u>
LT235/75R-15	CR861, CR857	7DT5FTS.....
LT235/85R-16	CR860, CR861, CR857	7DT2FTS.....
LT245/75R-16	CR860, CR861, CR857	7DT3FTS.....
LT265/75R-16	CR860, CR861, CR857	7DT4FTS.....
LT31X10.5 R-15	CR857, CR861	7DT6FTS.....

Attorney General Cooper and Director Mary Clement remind consumers to keep the following tire safety tips in mind:

- *A least once a month and before every long trip, inspect tires for patterns of uneven wear, and make sure the tires have the correct inflation pressure recommended by the manufacturer.
- *Do not overload your vehicle.
- *Avoid fast starts, stops and turns while driving.
- *Remember that hot weather can be especially hard on your tires, causing them to expand.
- *Keep your vehicle properly maintained, regularly having tires rotated and wheels balanced.
- *Be careful when buying used tires since it is possible some unethical dealers may try to capitalize on the recall by selling the recalled tires to unsuspecting consumers.
- *Keep a copy of all your paperwork and get a receipt if you are charged anything for replacement tires.